

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A An apparatus, said apparatus comprising
a semiconductor device configured to start up by reading out a boot program from
and a data-rewritable nonvolatile memory, said data-rewritable nonvolatile
memory having a plurality of data blocks wherein boot program instructions
being are stored in parallel in a plurality of blocks of the nonvolatile memory, the
semiconductor device, said semiconductor device comprising a central
processing unit (CPU) and a read control circuit (RCC), wherein:
[[a]] the CPU is configured, in part, to specify to the RCC a read
position for reading out the boot program instructions stored in the data-
rewritable nonvolatile memory at the starting time, and execute a start-up
process according to the thus read-out boot program instructions; and
a read control circuit the RCC is configured to (a) determine
whether a first data block corresponding to the read position is faulty or
not according to first data read out from the first data block, (b) output the
data to the CPU [[if]] when the first data block is determined as not faulty,
and (c) read, when the first data block is determined as faulty, [[the]]
second data from another a second data block storing boot program
instructions and determine whether the another block is faulty or output
said second data to the CPU when said second data block is determined as
not if the block is determined as faulty.
2. (Currently Amended) The device according to apparatus of claim 1, wherein the read control circuit is configured to determine whether the a data block is faulty or not faulty at least according to an error correction code contained in the data read out from the data-rewritable nonvolatile memory.
3. (Currently Amended) The device according to apparatus of claim 2, wherein the read control circuit RCC corrects the data and supplies [[it]] said data to the CPU when

[[it]] said RCC determines that the data is correctable according to the error correction code but otherwise determines that the data block is faulty when it determines that the data is uncorrectable data.

4. (Currently Amended) The device according to apparatus of claim 1, wherein the read control circuit RCC is configured to determine that [[the]] a data block is faulty or not faulty at least according to a block state information contained in the data read out from the data-rewritable nonvolatile memory.

5. (Currently Amended) The device according to apparatus of claim 4, wherein the read control circuit RCC determines that the block is faulty when the block state information does not show a predetermined value.

6. (Currently Amended) The device according to apparatus of claim 4, wherein the block state information is stored in a leading page of each of the blocks storing boot program instructions.

7. (Currently Amended) The device according to apparatus of claim 1, wherein the data-rewritable nonvolatile memory is a NAND type flash memory.

8. (Currently Amended) A processing method for starting up a semiconductor device comprising a central processing unit (CPU) and a read control circuit (RCC), said CPU configured, in part, to start by reading out boot program instructions from a data-rewritable nonvolatile memory, said data-rewritable nonvolatile memory having a plurality of data blocks wherein boot program instructions being are stored in parallel in a plurality of blocks in the nonvolatile memory, the processing method comprising the steps of the RCC:

reading out data from a first data block in the data-rewritable nonvolatile memory corresponding to a read position specified by the CPU at the starting time by means of the read control circuit of the nonvolatile memory;

determining whether the first data block is faulty or not according to the data read out from the first data block; and

outputting the data to the CPU [[if]] when the first data block is determined as not

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faulty, or and reading, when the first data block is determined as faulty, second data from another a second data block storing boot program instructions and determining whether the another block is faulty or not if the block is determined as outputting said second data to the CPU when said second data block is determined as not faulty.